

INTERNATIONAL LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF CONTROL

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Storage/HH/IJC/Superior/index.shtml>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANGLERS CAUTIONED OF HIGHER ST. MARYS RAPIDS FLOWS

Beginning on August 12, 2002, and continuing into September, the eight gates at the south end of the control structure at the head of the St. Marys Rapids will be opened one at a time to accommodate repairs. Workers have to raise these gates to the fully open position to gain access to the seals located on the gate bottoms. While these gates are opened, the gates now partially open supplying the main rapids will be closed. Anglers fishing in the rapids need to be cautious of the changing flows and water levels in the rapids that occur due to these gate movements. These gate movements will only affect water conditions in the main rapids. There will be no change to the setting of Gate #1 which supplies water to the channel north of the Fishery Remedial Dike.

As a result of these needed gate repairs, the flow through the Compensating Works at the head of the St. Marys Rapids will be increased from the equivalent of one-half gate fully open as of August 12th. Taking this increase in flow to the rapids into account, the International Lake Superior Board of Control, under the authority granted to it by the International Joint Commission, has set the Lake Superior outflow to 2,350 cubic meters per second (m^3/s) (83.0 thousand cubic feet per second (tcfs)) for the month of August. The July outflow was 2,230 m^3/s (78.8 tcfs).

The August outflow will be released by discharging about 2,182 m^3/s (77.1 tcfs) through the three hydropower plants and passing most of the remaining flow through the control structure at the head of the St. Marys Rapids.

The July water supply to Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron were below average. This past month the level of Lake Superior rose by about the same amount as it usually does in July. Currently, the Lake Superior level is about 16 cm (6 inches) below its long-term average beginning of August level, but about 1 cm (1/2 inch) above the level recorded last year. The level of Lake Superior is now 19 cm (7 inches) above its chart datum level. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron rose by about its usual amount in July. The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron is about 27 cm (11 inches) below its long-term average beginning of August level but about 30 cm (12 inches) above the level of a year ago. Lakes Michigan-Huron's level is now 34 cm (13 inches) above its chart datum level. The Board continues to monitor conditions both on Lake Superior and downstream and will advise the International Joint Commission accordingly on those conditions.

Brigadier General Steven R. Hawkins, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the United States Board Member. Mr. Doug Cuthbert, of Environment Canada, is the Canadian Board Member.

For further information please contact Carl Woodruff as indicated above.

The Internet homepage at <http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/> provides access to additional information.